

NIGHTWISH RELOADED

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THE PERIOD before 'Century Child' was one of intense reflection, resulting in changes that effectively secured the Nightwish future. In came new bassist Marco Hietala (a well-known face on the Finnish rock scene; a man with a powerful voice plus an aggressive playing style), and in came a new management set-up, designed to allow the musicians more creative freedom.

For the first time ever, the songs were linked by a single theme (the loss of innocence), which just served to make them all the more powerful – heavy from an emotional point of view, and heavy in terms of the music as well, the whole thing underpinned by the sort of theatricality more usually associated with movie soundtracks.

A Top 5 album in Germany and a chart-topper at home, as indeed was 'Ever Dream' (the lead-off single), 'Century Child' ensured that the next time Nightwish took to the road they would be playing to half a million people in over 20 different countries!

'Century Child' (2002): Nightwish successfully storm the global charts in full panoramic glory.

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Nightwish

Century Child

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~ Century Child ~

"A musician's work is always a mirror of his personal life.

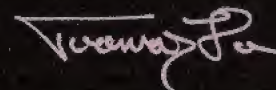
Sometimes it's so revealing, it can be scary.

"By the time I got to writing 'Century Child', days of happiness were well and truly over, making it the darkest album in the band's history to date.


"It's also the only one of our records that follows some kind of a theme;

'Century Child' is a dumping ground for the emotions, a defence mechanism against the world, from the dead end of 'Slaying The Dreamer' through to the hopelessness of 'Ocean Soul', although 'Ever Dream' hints at the promise of light at the end of the tunnel.

*"Losing faith and love is bearable,
losing hope is the end of everything."*



Tuomas Holopainen



Bless The Child

*"I was born amidst the purple waterfalls
I was weak, yet not unblest
Dead to the world
Alive for the journey
One night I dreamt
A white rose withering,
A newborn drowning
A lifetime loneliness.
I dreamt all my future
Relived my past
And witnessed the beauty of the beast"*

Where have all the feelings gone?
Why has all the laughter ceased?

Why am I loved only when I'm gone?
Gone back in time to bless the child

How can I ever feel again?
Given the chance would I return?

Why am I loved...
Think of me long enough to make a memory
Come bless the child one more time

I've never felt so alone in my life
As I drank from a cup which was counting my time
There's a poison drop in this cup of Man
To drink it is to follow the left hand path.

Why am I loved...

*"Where have all the feelings gone?
Why is it the deadliest sin - to love as I loved you?
Now unblest, homesick in time,
Soon to be freed from care, from human pain
My tale is of the most bitter truth:
Time pays us but with earth & dust,
And a dark, silent grave.
Remember, my child:
Without innocence the cross is only iron,
Hope is only an illusion
& Ocean Soul's nothing but a name...*

The Child bless thee & keep thee forever"

End Of All Hope

It is the end of all hope
To lose the child, the faith
To end all the innocence
To be someone like me
This is the birth of all hope
To have what I once had
This life unforgiven
It will end with birth

No will to wake for this morn
To see another black rose born
Deathbed is slowly covered with snow
Angels, they fell first but I'm still here
Alone as they are drawing near
In heaven my masterpiece will finally be sung

It is the end of all hope...

Wounded is the deer that leaps highest
And my wound it cuts so deep
Turn off the light and let me pull the plug

It is the end of all hope...

Mandylion without a face
Deathwish without a prayer
End of hope, end of love, end of time
The rest is silence

It is the end of all hope...



Tarja Turunen: Vocals

Dead To The World

All the same take me away
We're dead to the world

The Child gave thought to the poet's words
Gave comfort to the Fallen (Heartfelt, lovelorn)
Remaining, yet still uninvited
Those words scented my soul
(Lonely soul, Ocean soul)

*"It's not the monsters under your bed
It is the Man next door
That makes you fear, makes you cry,
Makes you cry for the child
All the wars are fought among those lonely men
Unarmed, unscarred"*

I don't want to die a scarless man
A lonely soul (Tell me now what to do)
I studied silence to learn the music
I joined the sinful to regain innocence

Heaven queen, cover me
In all that blue
Little boy, such precious joy
Is dead to the world
Heaven queen, carry me
Away from all pain
All the same take me away
We're dead to the world

Dead, silent, constant, yet always changing
- My favourite view of this world

As he died, he will return to die in me again
Weaving the cloth, giving birth to Century Child
Who gave his life not for the world but for me
Innocence reborn once more

Heaven Queen...

Ever Dream

Ever felt away with me
Just once that all I need
Entwined in finding you one day
Ever felt away without me
My love, it lies so deep
Ever dream of me

Would you do it with me
Heal the scars and change the stars
Would you do it for me
Turn loose the heaven within
I'd take you away
Castaway on a lonely day
Bosom for a teary cheek
My song can but borrow your grace

Ever felt away...

Come out, come out wherever you are
So lost in your sea
Give in, give in for my touch
For my taste for my lust

Ever felt away...

Your beauty cascaded on me
In this white night fantasy

Ever felt away...

*"All I ever craved were the two
Dreams I shared with you
One I now have, will the other
Ever dream remain
For yours I truly wish to be"*



Jukka Nevalainen: Drums



Nightwish

Playing The Dreamer

I'm a priest for the poorest sacrifice
I'm but a raft in a sea of sorrow and greed
You bathed in my wine
Drank from my cup, mocked my rhyme
Your slit tongues licked my aching wounds

Put a stake through my heart!
And drag me into sunlight
So awake for your greed
As you're slaying the dreamer

Swansong for the Wish of Night
God it hurts, give a name to the pain
Our primrose path to hell is growing weed

Put a stake through my heart...

Blame me, it's me
Coward, a good-for-nothing scapegoat
Dumb kid, living a dream
Romantic only on paper
Tell me why you took all that was mine!
Stay as you lay - don't lead me astray!

Wake up, mow the weed
You'd be nothing without me
Take my life if you have the heart to die

You bastards tainted my tool
Raped my words, played me fool
Gather your precious glitter
And leave me be
The Great Ones are all dead
And I'm tired, too

I truly hate you all!



Forever Yours

Fare thee well, little broken heart
Downcast eyes lifetime loneliness
Whatever walks in my heart will walk alone

Constant longing for the perfect soul
Unwashed scenery forever gone
Whatever walks in my heart will walk alone

No love left in me.
No eyes to see the heaven beside me
My time is yet to come so I'll be forever yours

Ocean Soul

One more night to bear this nightmare
What more do I have to say
Crying for me was never worth a tear
My lonely soul is only filled with fear

Long hours of loneliness
Between me and the sea

Losing emotion, Finding devotion
Should I dress in white and search the sea
As I always wished to be - One with the waves
Ocean Soul

Walking the tideline I hear your name
Is angels whispering
Something so beautiful it hurts

Long hours...

I only wished to become something beautiful
Through my music, through my silent
devotion

Losing...



Emppu Vuorinen: Guitars

Feel For You

You were my first love
The earth moving under me
Bedroom scent, beauty ardent,
distant shiver, heaven sent
I'm the snow on your lips,
The freezing taste, the silvery sip
I'm the breath on your hair,
The endless nightmare,
Devil's lair

Only so many times I can say
I long for you
The lily among the thorns,
The prey among the wolves

Someday, I will feed a snake,
Drink her venom.
Stay awake
With time all pain will fade,
Through your memory I will wade

Barely cold in her grave
Barely warm in my bed
Settling for a draw tonight
Puppet girl, your strings are mine

This one is for you for you
Only for you
Just give in to it never think again
I feel for you



Beauty Of The Beast

LONG LOST LOVE

Trees have dropped their leaves
Clouds their waters
All this burden is killing me
Distance is covering your way
Tears your memory
All this beauty is killing me

Oh, do you care, I still feel for you
So aware, what should be lost is there

I fear I will never find anyone
I know my greatest pain is yet to come
Will we find each other in the dark
My long lost love

Oh, do you care...

ONE MORE NIGHT TO LIVE

Safely away from the world. In a dream. Timeless domain
A child, dreamy-eyed, mother's mirror, father's pride

I wish I could come back to you. Once again feel the rain
Falling inside me. Cleaning all that I've become

My home is far but the rest it lies so close
With my long lost love under the black rose
You told I had the eyes of a wolf
Search them and find the beauty of the beast

All of my songs can only be composed of
The greatest of pains
Every single verse can only be born of
The greatest of wishes
I wish I had one more night to live

A saint blessed me, drank me deeply
Spitting out the misery in me
Still a sinner rapes 1000 saints
Sharing the same hell with me
Sanest choice in this insane world:
Beware the beast but enjoy the feast he offers

CHRISTABEL

*"Oh, sweet Christabel
Share with me your poem
For I know now
I'm a puppet on this
Silent stage show
I'm but a poet who
Failed his best play
A Dead Boy,
Who failed to write
An ending
To each of
His poems"*

Marco Hietala: Bass & Vocals



THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL...

IN JANUARY 2002, Nightwish entered the studio to start work on the 'Century Child' album (their fourth full-length outing since 1997), having just been through a period of change - both personal & professional - without which the very future of the band may have been called into question...

First of all, a new management set-up, King Foo Entertainment, had been brought on board to allow Tuomas to focus more fully on the creative side, and then - after a great deal of thought - the difficult decision was taken to ask Sami Vänskä, a long-standing friend, to leave the ranks. If truth be told, this request didn't come as a complete surprise to Sami, who had sensed that something of this nature might be brewing, but it was still an uneasy time for all concerned. On a brighter note, his replacement - Marco Hietala - had an impact on the group that was positive right from the start...

A well-known (bearded) face on the Finnish heavy metal scene, having been involved with a number of different projects including both Sinergy & Tarot, Marco was already well acquainted with Nightwish and their music, as Sinergy had guested with Tuomas & Co. on a full European tour. He was more experienced than the other Nightwish personnel, had a powerful singing voice and a way of playing bass that added an extra degree of aggression to the songs, all of which proved highly valuable in terms of capturing the new material then bringing it to life out on the road.

There was no doubt about it - the Nightwish that set about recording 'Century Child' was something of a rejuvenated outfit. However, despite the solidarity that now existed within the camp, Tuomas' outlook was proving anything but sunny, and as always his feelings & emotions were there for all to see; 'End Of All Hope', 'Dead To The World', 'Slaying The Dreamer', the song titles said it all, as indeed did the music itself - heavier than before, with the guitars and the bass

riding high in the mix, and the knob marked 'drama' cranked to the max.

Tuomas' love of movie themes was now shining through in style, with each number conceived as a mini-soundtrack in its own right, and a choir and an orchestra on hand to turn up the grandeur when required. This was Nightwish in full panoramic glory, with Tarja deciding to keep her classical influences on a generally tighter leash as a way of giving maximum weight & emotion to the album's recurring themes: childhood & innocence - or *loss* of innocence, to be more exact.

Given the darkness of his mood, it was no surprise that Tuomas should view the new material through cautious eyes, but as far as the press and the public were concerned, this particular 'Child' was something of a prodigy; within two days, lead single 'Ever Dream' had reached gold status in Finland, going straight to the top of the charts, and there was even greater success in store, with the album itself also topping its domestic chart, also turning gold in two hours... then hitting **platinum** in 10 days!

Overseas, too, the response was above & beyond the band's expectations; they could never have anticipated 'Century Child' going Top 5 in Germany, but that's precisely what happened, with influential title *Rock Hard* declaring it 'Album Of The Month'. Over in Brazil, meanwhile, the record was a sell-out by the end of day one, and so it went on... Nightwish had well and truly arrived on the world stage, and when they took to the road this time around, playing shows in over 20 different countries, there would be almost half a million people turning out to see them.

The dream was very much alive.

Dante Bonutto
Spinefarm Records UK

The only true love I ever knew
was behind those downcast eyes,
The only comfort I ever felt
was during those long hours of loneliness
when I felt for you
I do believe
Only Innocence can save the world

• OCEAN SOUL •



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